

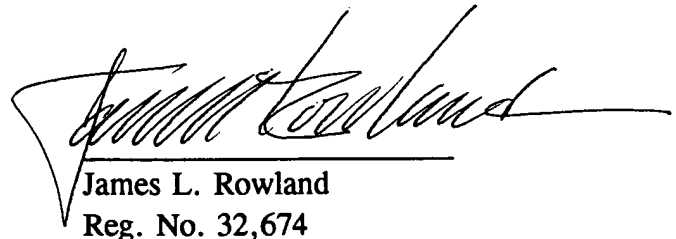
Although a terminal disclaimer could be filed to overcome the rejection, Applicants are cancelling the claims at the request of the Examiner to facilitate the interference proceeding (claims 1-26 having been copied from U.S. Patent No. 5,797,610, as explained in a paper concurrently filed with the instant continuation application). Accordingly, Applicants intend to reserve their right to re-file the cancelled claims subsequent to this amendment.

No fee is believed to be necessary at this time. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee required for acceptance of this reply as timely and complete to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

In addition, although no extension of time is believed to be necessary at this time, if it were to be found that an extension of time were necessary to render this reply timely and/or complete, Applicants request an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) in the necessary increment(s) of month(s) that would render this reply timely and/or complete and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary extension of time fee under 37 CFR 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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